

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Six CCSD schools honored by Project Lead The Way

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce a record six schools were named Distinguished Schools by Project Lead The Way (PLTW), either as a Gateway School (middle school) or as a High School for the 2020-21 school year. A school earns the PLTW Distinguished School honor for its commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs.

Moultrie Middle School received this award for the first time ever due to expanded course offerings that were available to students as well as the hard work and dedication of their PLTW teachers to get students interested in the program.

Wando High School is the first high school in South Carolina honored by PTLW four years in a row, and Thomas C. Cario Middle School is the only middle school in the state to pick up Distinguished School status four consecutive years for its PLTW Gateway to Technology program.

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science (CCSMS) is a Distinguished High School for the second year in a row, and the middle school program received Gateway honors for the third time in four years. CCSMS is one of just a few schools in the country to pick up multiple awards from PLTW in the same year.

In addition, Morningside Middle School was recognized for the third year in a row as a Gateway School and James Island Charter High School has earned this honor for the third time in four years.

This recognition program started in the 2017-2018 school year; four CCSD schools picked up a PLTW honor in the inaugural year, followed by three in 2018-2019 and five last year.

“The Project Lead The Way Distinguished Schools exemplify their commitment to providing a variety of courses in Engineering, Biomedical, and Computer Science pathways to all CCSD students regardless of race, ethnicity, poverty, or gender,” said Tralice Reddock, the district’s Career and

Technology Education curriculum specialist. "All Charleston County School District students in the PLTW programs have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning with problems that are reflective of real-world challenges."

Morningside Middle School, Thomas C. Cario Middle School, Moultrie Middle School, and Charleston Charter School for Math and Science were four of the six middle schools in South Carolina to receive this recognition for the 2020-21 school year.

Wando High School, James Island Charter High School, and Charleston Charter School for Math and Science were three of just four high schools in the state to earn the honor this year.

[PLTW](#) is a non-profit organization that serves millions of K-12 students and teachers in approximately 12,200 schools across the United States. The organization's recognition program honors schools that are committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. Schools that are recognized for this honor empower their students to thrive in an evolving world and have achieved exemplary results from their PLTW programs.

"PLTW integrates the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while best preparing our students for Future Readiness – on whichever path they choose to take," added Rich Gordon, CCSD's Executive Director for Career and Technology Education. "It's academic, technical, and employability training designed around project-based learning, open-ended problem solving, small group study, and learning by discovery."

Wando offered Introduction to Engineering at the high school, and the students had access to six additional engineering courses, four biomedical classes, and Cybersecurity at the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies.

Cario Middle carries all ten courses in the Gateway to Technology program: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Science and Technology, Automation and Robotics, Design and Modeling, Green Architecture, App Creators, Medical Detectives, Magic of Electrons, Energy and the Environment, and Flight and Space.

Morningside provided Energy and Environment, App Creators, Automation and Robotics, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Design and Modeling as options for students this past school year.

Moultrie offers Green Architecture, Medical Detectives, Design and Modeling, and Flight and Space. School staff are planning to add App Creators, Energy and the Environment, and Automation and Robotics for the 2021-2022.

At the high school level, scholars at Charleston Charter were able to take Principles of Engineering, Civil Engineering Architecture, Introduction to Engineering Design, Aerospace Engineering, Digital Electronics, Principles of Biomedical

Science, Biomedical Innovation, Medical Interventions, and Human Body Systems. Middle school students had the opportunity to take Medical Detectives, Automation and Robotics, Design and Modeling, and Science Technology.

James Island Charter offers the following four courses from the PLTW Engineering Program: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Civil Engineering Architecture.

For more information about the PLTW in CCSD, contact Rich Gordon at richard_gordon@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.